

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday September 17, 2009

Present: Kathi Liberman, Carol Tedone, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Jane-Helen Ross, Estelle Knurek, Donna Mattison, Kathy Bagley, Christine Taylor, Gerry Seklecki, Nancy Stilwell (ex-officio) Gerri Robers

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

Minutes: A motion to accept the May minutes was made by Jane Helen Ross. The minutes were approved.

Old Business:

The remaining \$71 from the 08-09 budget was spent on tablecloths for the community café.

New Business:

- Kathi Liberman spoke to Amy in the Town Clerk's Office. No action has yet been taken on people whose terms have expired but who wish to continue on the board.
- The budget adopted by the Town Council includes \$2,000 for the SCAC – the same as it has been for several years. \$1,400 will go to cover the ads in the Rare Reminder leaving \$600 for the committee to spend.
- Goals for the coming year:
 - 1) Oversight of services for seniors
 - 2) Advertising, promoting and advocating for issues related to seniors
 - 3) Oversee and encourage collaboration of senior services with area towns
 - 4) Support the Senior Center
 - 5) Identify and promote intergenerational volunteer opportunities
 - 6) Provide education and support to seniors and their caregiversA motion to approve the goals was made by Kathy Bagley and seconded by Donna Mattison. The motion passed unanimously.

- Spring Event – the committee brainstormed ideas for the spring 2010 educational event. Ideas included:
 - 1) What's new in health care
 - 2) Story telling – knowing yourself through your story
 - 3) What you need to stay independent and at homeIt was agreed that these will be reviewed at the next meeting and a decision will be made at that time

Reports:

- Council – Gerri Roberts reported that there is a new Town Manager and that elections for council will be held in November.
- Wethersfield Housing Authority – Kathi Liberman reported that there is a new director of the WHA – Kate Fourcier. Kathi would like to maintain senior and youth programs that have been done in past years.

- Clergy – no report. The SCAC is still trying to get a clergy rep, but it is possible that a non-ordained person who is involved in the religious community might be able to serve in that capacity.
- AARP – Gerri Roberts is now president of AARP.
- Elderly Service – Chris Taylor reported that the Renter Rebate program ended on Sept 15th and energy applications will be taken starting the first week of October. CRT also has a new Home Solutions program offering low interest loans to seniors who need home repairs and qualify based on income. There is also a Ready To Work Program for people who are 55 and older. They can work up to 20 hours per week and receive employment training. She recently completed the Municipal Agent report and the Department handled 4,417 calls for information or service during the past year.
- WACPD – Chris Taylor reported that last night's meeting did not have a quorum. The committee does have a new handbook available.
- Seniors Club – Carol Tedone reported that the club has several new members.
- Social Services/Senior Center - Nancy Stilwell provided an update on Dial-a-Ride: the core program remains in effect; the expanded program was stopped at the end of June since no state money had been appropriated. Now that the budget has passed and those funds are included, the expanded service will resume as soon as we get a contract from the Department of Transportation. ITN is growing with more members and volunteers from Wethersfield joining the program.
- Donna handed out newsletters. The Senior Center is sponsoring a new choral group that has been meeting twice per month. They will be available to perform in the future. The Senior Star competition was successful with the winners going on to compete on Wallingford. Wii bowling continues to be popular. The Wethersfield league lost the final competition to Newington this year. The Senior Net event drew 67 participants and will probably attract new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy A. Stilwell, Ph.D.
Director, Social and Youth Services